Integrated Management Navigation System
Strategic Integrated Procurement Enterprise System

STRIPES Communiqué

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY STRIPES November 2008

The STRIPES Communiqué is one of the many ways you will receive information and progress updates about the STRIPES Project. If you did not receive this communiqué via e-mail and would like to be added to the STRIPES mailing list, send an e-mail to STRIPES@hq.doe.gov with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

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The Facts: How often is STRIPES Available?

Perception vs Reality. Reality is often one's perception of what is happening in a particular circumstance. In an effort to keep you informed, the STRIPES team initially sent out notices whenever any system affecting STRIPES was not available. This practice may have created questions in the minds of our users regarding the availability of STRIPES. In order to paint a clear picture of the reality, the facts about STRIPES' availability are presented below.

The normal hours of operation for STRIPES are Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 8 PM. In examining the operational availability of STRIPES during the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2008, it was determined that STRIPES was available for use 98.81% of the normal working hours. Although 100% is the goal for STRIPES, being available nearly 99% is a significant achievement during its initial usage. So what accounted for the less than 2% period when STRIPES was unavailable? There was a configuration problem with the STRIPES virtual directory, a network storage system outage, and ad-hoc server technicalities which contributed to the recorded down time.

While it might seem as though STRIPES operates in a silo, the diagram to the right highlights that STRIPES interfaces with multiple systems. In instances when these systems are undergoing updates or are experiencing higher than expected usage, they have a direct impact on accomplishing certain functions. Given these inter-dependencies, the smooth operation of each system is necessary in order for STRIPES to be 100% functional, 100% of the time. The ultimate goal of STRIPES and the iManage applications is to function reliably in an integrated environment. As we work from the "as-is" to this "to-be" environment, there is an interim state during which technical errors and process inconsistencies must be addressed. The STRIPES team is working to make its necessary adjustments, as well as work with the inter-dependent system owners to improve your experience. Take a look at the following chart to clarify some common misconceptions on the actions that can and cannot be completed in the event that a system interfacing with STRIPES is unavailable.
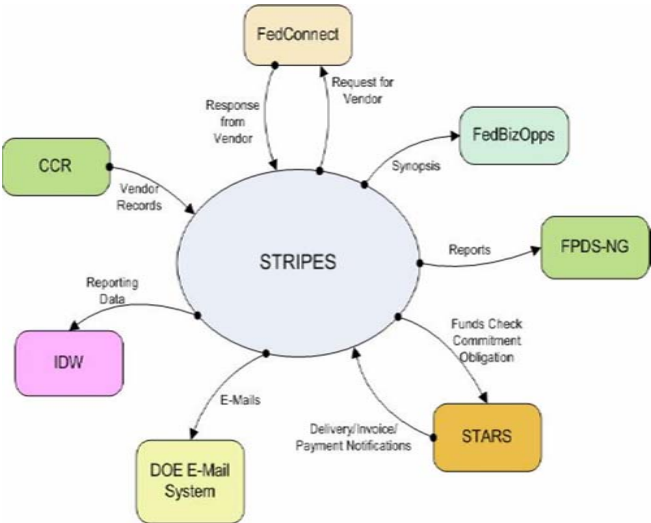
What I Think Is Happening With STRIPES	What Is Actually Happening With STRIPES
"STRIPES is down frequently"	• STRIPES is available nearly 99% of the time • Systems interfacing with STRIPES, or the connection

	to them are down, causing a loss of specific functions in STRIPES only
"STARS or FPDS-NG is down so I can not use STRIPES"	• If STARS or FPDS-NG is down <u>the actions which interface between those systems and STRIPES</u> can not be performed • Users are <u>able to execute all other STRIPES actions that are isolated from the affected system(s)</u> to minimize the loss of work time **Users Can:** • Create contracts, solicitation, grants, milestone plans, and inter-agency agreements in STRIPES • Prepare and route Supporting Documents for review • Confirm and correct all other STRIPES validation errors • Route packages for review • Release awards if the interface to STARS is not required **Users Can not:** • Validate/update financial data in STARS due to delays in recording obligations in STARS • Create FPDS-NG Records • Release awards using routine processes

STRIPES Training Survey Results Revealed

Effective training is the cornerstone to learning any new system, and STRIPES is no exception. Upon the completion of each STRIPES classroom training session, surveys are distributed to users to gauge the usefulness and comprehension of the training content and the training facilitator. Of the eight Sites trained for deployment, approximately 378 surveys were completed. The results are detailed in the table below.

STRIPES Training							
Site Totals							
Site	EMCBC	HQ	ID	NETL	NNSA HPO	OR	RW	SR*
Students	37	123	27	64	4	38	25	0
Surveys	31	159	24	65	4	38	25	26
Raw Score	144.06	737.79	110.67	295.69	18.78	173.14	108.00	68.00
Overall Score	4.65	4.64	4.61	4.55	4.69	4.56	4.49	2.62

* SR provided one survey that did not yield any quantifiable results

Using a scoring range of 1 to 5, the average overall score for the eight Sites was 4.35 signifying a very favorable opinion of the training. In addition, the seven trainers received an average overall score of 4.60. The survey feedback indicates that the training sessions are well taught and well received.

"Technology is dominated by two types of people: those who understand what they do not manage, and those who manage what they do not understand."   *~ Putt's Law*

STRIPES Project Information